

Navidad 2007

2007 has certainly been a busy year. My only hope for 2008 is that things go just as well, but we can take a bit more time out to relax and enjoy living in such a great place.

Aqua Adicta

Our business is going very well, more and more people are finding us on the Internet and are booking sailing or windsurfing holidays. This means, they come and do activities with us every day, rather than find us when they get here and then get out on the water once or twice.

We mainly operate from April –



October, however we do a few lessons outside that time. Most people seem to think that since we



are only open for 7 months we must have loads of free time. However, as anyone who runs their own business knows, there are many things that must be done in the background. Our main two activities during winter are maintenance and publicity.

For the past two months we have been busy trying to relocate all of our equipment back to our house. This involved having to clear out the garage (which still contained belongings from the previous owners) then towing the kayaks, windsurf boards and boats back from the club

we have been operating from and finally cleaning everything down and storing it for the winter. We still have a pile of sails to get through. The house is now full of sails, wetsuits, buoyancy-aids etc. etc. and the garage and driveway full of kayaks and boats. If you would like to see what we have been up to please visit my blog where there are lots of photos.



We will spend February and March preparing for the new season, which will be more complicated than last year, as we are hoping to move location (not far, just ½ mile down the beach) however it involves getting permission from the Spanish authorities, which, as I'm sure you would expect, is not straightforward!

You may have noticed that I have not mentioned January, this is because we will be travelling to the UK for Christmas (to see my family) and then to California (to see Julian's family) before returning to Spain towards the end of January.

Learning Spanish

After our initial flurry of work (back in Nov 2005 - Feb 2006) things have slowed up rather too much! We concentrate on studying Spanish in the winter, as we are far too busy during the season. Last winter we studied using workbooks rather than going to a teacher, this was OK, as we are quite good at getting down to it, however it did not improve our spoken language. This year we have returned to lessons for (hopefully) 4 months. It is just as well that we decided to have lessons, as we are so busy with other things, that the Spanish would have been completely neglected.



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We watch Spanish TV and DVDs in Spanish most evenings, which have improved our listening skills. Unfortunately this does not equip you to understand the Spanish people who live around here, as they have a very strong accent. Rather like a foreigner trying to understand a Devonshire Farmer!

Spangles

Something that takes up quite a lot of my time and energy is a Ladies Barbershop Chorus called the Spangles. I joined them two years ago and we have grown from just 5 to nearly 30 – I say nearly because I'm not quite sure of the exact numbers. We were 26 but there are several people who have expressed an interest in joining us in the New Year.



I am the MD (or Musical Director) of the Chorus and have been since about 6 weeks after I joined, due to the fact that the old MD walked out (no, not because of me!!). We have performed at a number of different events this year and are particularly busy at the moment with Christmas celebrations in progress.

Fortunately the Chorus close for August and don't do too much during July. Our busiest time is during November and December when our business is quiet, so the two activities are fairly compatible.

Our House

As usual we have ended up buying a house in need of work. Last year Julian was kept busy replacing all of the bathroom fittings, as they were all leaking. This year we have moved

outside and done some jobs, including building a shed to store some of the stuff from the garage because the garage needed to contain all of the gear for the business. We also built a pergola in the garden, which may seem like a luxury item, however, it is fantastic to hang sails from. How we would have washed and dried all of the sails without it I really don't know.

We have also had some builders in to build and outside loo. This is because we expect to run some activities from the house in the early season and need it for the clients. When the plumber was sorting out the drains for the new loo he discovered a rather serious leak below the house from our en-suite bathroom. So that is now out-of-bounds until February, when Julian will have a chance to sort it out. It's a shame that plumbing is Julian's least favourite job!

We glassed in a section of the terrace last year and created a conservatory, this is brilliant and we use it all the time. We are now hoping to build another similar one at the other end of the terrace, however, I don't think the finances are up to it at the moment so that will have to wait until next year.

Christian Fellowship

I have found a lovely friendly group who meet in Los Nietos (a village just

next to ours). There is a Spanish Pastor who has an English wife and together they run meetings in Spanish and English. They also had a Gypsy meeting but that has now merged with the Spanish group. The English people who go are mainly British ex-pats and most of them are retired. At the moment I end up leading worship every week I am there, which isn't ideal, however it is so informal it isn't too much trouble.

We are growing all the time and since the English meetings only started last year it is going very well. We now have 25-30 most weeks, though after Easter the numbers will drop as many people return to the UK for the summer.



Well I think that is just about it. If you want to keep up with our activities throughout the year take a look at the Blog. And do email us with your news.

*Feliz Navidad
Julian & Lesley*

